

Message Text

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72

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 051900Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6540

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T EC BRUSSELS 1369

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR,US, 33:

7?: EC/ARAB COOPERATIN: SIMONET'S ACCOUNT AND ADVICE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1348

1. EC VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET CALLED ME IN MARCH 5 TO TALK ABOUT (A) THE US REACTION TO THE DECISION ON EC-ARAB COOPERATION AND (B) PREPARATIONS FOR THE MARCH 13-14 ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP MEETING.

2. HAVING HEARD FROM DAVIGNON ABOUT OUR REACTION TO THE DECISION BY THE NINE TO LAUNCH THEIR INITIATIVE WITH THE ARABS (BRUSSELS 1335), SIMONET WANTED TO EXPRESS THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT A STRONG NEGATIVE US POSITION WOULD PLAY INTO FRENCH HANDS. HE FELT THAT OUR OP-POSITION TO THE ACTION WOULD GIVE JOBERT A "VICTORY" WHICH HE DID NOT DESERVE. SIMONET SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE
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COURSE IN WHICH WE WOULD SEE GUARANTEES FROM THE NINE (A) THAT THERE WOULD BE NO POLITICAL CONTENT IN THE EC PROGRAM WHICH MIGHT INTERFERE WITH EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND (B) THAT NO MEETING WOULD

BE HELD AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL UNLESS IT WAS FULLY PREPARED, INCLUDING FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COORDINATING GROUP, SIMONET SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING ON MARCH 7 OF THE EC ENERGY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE EIGHT EC MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING GROUP. HIS INTENTION IS TO TRY TO DEVELOP POSITIONS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 13-14 WHICH WOULD NOT FURTHER DIVIDE THE EIGHT FROM FRANCE. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE OBJECTIVES AGREED AT WASHINGTON; SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD MAKE IT LESS DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH TO COME ALONG AT SOME LATER STAGE. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, SIMONET CONSIDERS THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AS SUCH IN THE COORDINATING GROUP OR FOR THE COMMISSION TO BE PRESENT IN ANY CAPACITY. HE HAS ABANDONED HIS IDEA OF HAVING THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATE IN THE ECG AS IT DOES IN THE OCED HIGH LEVEL GROUP AFTER A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE (BURIN DES ROZIERES). HE STILL HOPED THAT THE FRENCH CAN BE BROUGHT ALONG GRADUALLY, BUT AT PRESENT THEY ARE STILL TAKING A VERY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.

4. REFTTEL REPORTS A CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES. GREENWALD

SECRET

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